

little more time to work on this, and as all things, whether it is a predator bill or whatever it is, we do need a little seed money. So I am kind of put between the spot, and I realize what our budget picture is but I readily see an opportunity here for support right now.

PRESIDENT: Thank you, Senator Nelson. Senator McFarland, please.

SENATOR MCFARLAND: Thank you, Mr. President. I think I agree with Senator Hannibal to an extent when he says if it is a good program, let's fund it, let's do it right. I disagree, however, when he says that we don't necessarily have that ability to do that right now, and maybe some time in the future it can be done. We haven't even seen what the budget proposals will be right now. We don't know what items will be cut, what items will be added. We have no perspective. I think it would be extremely premature right now to say, no, we have got to kill this bill right now when we have no idea what the budget requests will be. We haven't even received the recommendations from the Governor as to the budget, and I would like to urge you to pass this bill with the \$130,000 appropriation, again, and at the end we can look at the whole budget picture, we can determine our priorities. If this is a good program and if I have a chance to discuss it with you and talk with everybody in the body, and visit about the merits of the program, then we can decide at the end whether or not this funding should be available in comparison to others. I am not trying...I hope that senators don't get the impression that just because this would be funded that somehow their particular program that they are supporting is necessarily going to lose revenue. I mean it is very conceivable, for example, to support this program and support the particular program the other senators may be interested in as well. It doesn't necessarily mean that if you fund one program, you are going to have to absolutely cut out other programs. I hope we can fund all meritorious programs and, again, I am willing at the end to battle it out and see if we can develop a priority, whereby this program is good enough and warrants consideration, that it should be funded. But right now I think it is very premature to make a decision right here that we shouldn't provide any funds whatsoever. We will have Select File, we will have General File, we can make that final decision then. I think if we really value education, and if everybody who talks in support of education would back their talk with action, then I think this program has great merit and I think it would be approved almost unanimously. We need to